

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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TRSE-00 COME-00 AF-10 DRC-01 OMB-01 /171 W

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R 121415Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8436

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 14586

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IN

SUBJ: COMMUNISTS PRESS ATTACK ON GOI DOMESTIC POLICIES

REF: NEW DELHI 14255

SUMMARY: WE HAD EXPECTED THE PRO-MOSCOW COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (CPI), LOOSELY TOED TO THE RULING CONGRESS, TO MODERATE ITS ATTACK ON CERTAIN "ANTI-PEOPLE" POLICIES OF THE CONGRESS FOLLOWING THE BREZHNEV VISIT (REFTEL). INSTEAD, A POST-VISIT CPI RESOLUTION RENEWED VIRULENT CRITICISM OF THE CONGRESS' CURRENT DOMESTIC APPROACH. THE CPI STATEMENT URGED A "SHARP

STRUGGLE" AGAINST BANKRUPT CENTRIST POLICIES BY "ALL LEFT AND DEMOCRATIC FORCES", INCPUDING PRMGRESSIVE CONGRESSMEN, TO SHIFT GOVERNMENT POLICIES LEFTWARD. USA AND PRC WERE DENOUNCED AS USUAL. A COMING MOSCOW CPSU-CPI MEETING MAY IRON OUT APPARENT DIFFERENCES. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING THE BREZHNEV VISIT, HE WAS REPORTED TO HAVE URGED

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THE CPI LEADERSHIP TO TONE DOWN CRITICISM. THE CONGRESS

GOVERNMENT AND ABANDON ANTI-INFLATION DEMONSTRATIONS AND STRIKES, ESPECIALLY IN STATE SECTOR, SINCE SUCH ACTIVITIES DISCREDIT MRS. GANDHI AND HINDER PRODUCTION (REFTEL). WE THOUGHT BREZHNEV'S PUBLIC EMPHASIS ON THE BENEFITS OF DETENTE MIGHT ALSO MODERATE CPI ATTACKS ON THE USA.

2. MEETING IN NEW DELHI DECEMBER 2 TO 5, THE CPI NATIONAL COUNCIL ISSUED A LENGTHY, REPETITIVE POLITICAL RESOLUTION REITERATING THE LINE IT HAS TAKEN ALL YEAR LONG--THAT "PROGRESSIVE AND DEMOCRATIC FORCES" MUST UNITE IN A "SHARP STRUGGLE" AGAINST DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN REACTION AND AGAINST THE CONGRESS' "DRIFT AND RETREAT" FROM ITS ERSTWHILE RADICAL PLEDGES. THE OBJECTIVE OF SUCH MASS STRUGGLES WOULD BE TO "SHIFT GOVERNMENT POLICIES TO THE LEFT". IN ITS ONLY NEW NOTE, THE CPI ARGUED THAT STRUGGLE WAS REQUIRED "TO REALIZE THE NEW POSSIBILITIES THAT HAVE BEEN OPENED UP BY THE INDO-SOVIET AGREEMENTS". TRUE TO PAST FORM, THE CPI DENOUNCED CONGRESS RIGHTISTS, THE RIVAL COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA - MARXIST, AND THE BUREAUCRACY, WHICH SINGLY OR TOGETHER SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO SUBVERT THE ECONOMIC GAINS FLOWING FROM THE INDO-SOVIET PACTS. THE RESOLUTION CONTAINED THE FIRST PUBLISHED CPI CRITICISM OF THE GANDHI-KAMARAJ (CONGRESS-O) TAMIL NADU POLL PACT. IN A SEPARATE RESOLUTION OF COMING STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, THE CPI URGED CADRES TO ORGANIZE AND UNITE WITH "PROGRESSIVES" TO WIN A MAXIMUM NUMBER OF SEATS FOR THE CPI AND FOR LEFT, DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AND FORCES. TO ACHIEVE THE END, "A FLEXIBLE POLICY OF ALLIANCE AND ADJUSTMENT" WAS ADVOCATED. (THE CPI HOPES TO CONTEST ABOUT 60 OF THE 425 SEATS IN THE UTTAR PRADESH ASSEMBLY; THE RULING CONGRESS PLANS TO RUN CANDIDATES IN 40 COUNTIES, CITIES

LEAVING ONLY ABOUT 20 SEATS UNCONTESTED FOR THE CPI. FURTHER ADJUSTMENT IS POSSIBLE).

3. THE CPI RESOLUTION RECONCILED BREZHNEV'S PRO-DETENTE REMARKS AND ITS OWN NEED TO VILIFY THE USA AS FOLLOWS: "INSIDE THE US ITSELF, REACTIONARY AND IMPERIALIST CIRCLES WHO ARE OPPOSED TO DETENTE AND

PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE ARE ACTIVATING THEMSELVES TO BLOCK FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE US-USSR AGREEMENT, PARTICULARLY ON THE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY FRONTS". IN STIRRING UP TENSION
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IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD, ESPECIALLY IN SOUTH ASIA, "US IMPERIALISM" WAS SEEN AS ACTING IN COLLUSION WITH MAOIST CHINA".

4. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND FROM USUALLY PLAUSIBLE SOURCES THAT THERE WAS A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF CRITICISM AND RESENTMENT EXPRESSED BY CPI NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS FROM WEST BENGAL AND UP OF BREZHNEV'S KIND WORDS FOR MRS. GAN AND THE CONGRESS PARTY. THE PARTY RESOLUTION'S APPARENTLY DEFIANT ATTITUDE

APPEARS TO REFLECT THAT FLAVOR. WE UNDERSTAND THE SOVIETS
HAVE INVITED TOP CPI LEADERS TO VISIT MOSCOW LATE THIS MONTH
TO DISCUSS WITH CPSU LEADERS THEIR NET ASSESSMENT OF THE BREZHNEV
VISIT. CONCEIVABLY THE RESULT MAY BE THAT THE CPI WILL CONTINUE
ITS VERBAL ASSAULT ON CONGRESS "DRIFT AND RETREAT". IT MIGHT
NONETHELESS ABANDON THOSE AGITATIONS AND DEMONSTRATIONS
WHICH REALLY HINDER PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION EXCEPT IN THOSE
STATES WHERE THE CPI IS IN DIRECT COMPETITION WITH CONGRESS
GOVERNMENT . A CONTINUED GENERAL MILITANT CPI POSTURE COULD
BECOME A SOURCE OF FRICTION BETWEEN MRS. GANDHI AND THE SOVIETS,
AND BETWEEN THE CPSU AND CPI.
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